

Members of the House Select Committee on Economics,

Lutheran Urban Mission Initiative, Inc. (LUMIN Schools) was founded in 2002 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation by a group of Lutheran business people and professional educators deeply concerned about the downward trend of Lutheran education in Milwaukee's urban community. Several schools had closed in prior years and others were struggling to remain open. Through the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program, LUMIN's organizers were determined to reverse that trend by developing a network of high-quality schools focused on academic excellence, leadership development, and spiritual growth; and supported by human care and social services designed to address the numerous "barriers to learning" confronted by urban students.

Between 2005 and 2020, LUMIN revived five failing Lutheran and secular elementary schools in Milwaukee, Wauwatosa, and Racine WI. LUMIN financially stabilized all the schools, increased enrollments, dealt with staffing issues, addressed deferred maintenance and other facilities needs, upgraded all curricula, invested in staff training, and improved the academic performance of the schools.

LUMIN Schools are elementary schools serving mostly low-income, minority 4K through 8th grade students. Total enrollment in the seven campuses is over 1,400 students.

LUMIN Schools embraces a parent's right to choose the best education for their child and participates in the Milwaukee, Racine, or Wisconsin Parental Choice Programs, three of Wisconsin's state-funded voucher programs that support school choice for low-income families living in those communities.

Giving parents the opportunity to choose the best school for their child has a profound impact on the students and the community. From academic results, to perceived safety, to graduation rates to civic values, all tides rise when families have a say in their education.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shaun Luehring", with a stylized, flowing script.

Shaun Luehring

President & CEO  
LUMIN Schools